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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,775	05/16/2001	Kazuki Matsui	1405.1043	9121
21171	7590	06/01/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			CARLSON, JEFFREY D	
SUITE 700			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			3622	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/01/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Notice of Non-Compliant  
Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)**

<b>Application No.</b> 09/855,775 <b>Examiner</b> Jeffrey D. Carlson	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MATSUI ET AL. <b>Art Unit</b> 3622
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

The amendment document filed on 07 March 2007 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 or 1.4. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following item(s) is required.

THE FOLLOWING MARKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

- 1. Amendments to the specification:
  - A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
  - B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
  - C. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Abstract:
  - A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
  - B. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Amendments to the drawings:
  - A. The drawings are not properly identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet," "New Sheet," or "Annotated Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d).
  - B. The practice of submitting proposed drawing correction has been eliminated. Replacement drawings showing amended figures, without markings, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 are required.
  - C. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Amendments to the claims:
  - A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
  - B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
  - C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Previously presented), (New), (Not entered), (Withdrawn) and (Withdrawn-currently amended).
  - D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
  - E. Other: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Other (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or not signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4):
 

Applicant has not provided reasoning why claim 18 would be allowable over the applied art in view of the arguments previously made by the examiner.

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714.

**TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**

1. Applicant is given **no new time period** if the non-compliant amendment is an after-final amendment or an amendment filed after allowance. If applicant wishes to resubmit the non-compliant after-final amendment with corrections, the **entire corrected amendment** must be resubmitted.
2. Applicant is given **one month**, or thirty (30) days, whichever is longer, from the mail date of this notice to supply the correction, if the non-compliant amendment is one of the following: a preliminary amendment, a non-final amendment (including a submission for a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114), a supplemental amendment filed within a suspension period under 37 CFR 1.103(a) or (c), and an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action. If any of above boxes 1. to 4. are checked, the correction required is only the **corrected section** of the non-compliant amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

**Extensions of time** are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a) **only** if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action.

**Failure to timely respond** to this notice will result in:

**Abandonment** of the application if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action; or

**Non-entry** of the amendment if the non-compliant amendment is a preliminary amendment or supplemental amendment.

~~Declarations~~  Examiner (S) if applicable

~~Telephone~~ No.

***Response to Amendment***

The reply filed on 4/21/06 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

- While applicant has submitted arguments detailing why claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-17 should be allowable over the applied art, there is no clear reasoning why claim 18 should be allowable. In particular, the examiner's un-refuted position regarding the anticipation by Bezos appears to address the entirety of newly submitted claim 18. Applicant states that Bezos fails to provide or suggest "information pertaining to a virtual-space identifier" and that the identifiers of Bezos are not "virtual chat space identifiers". However the examiner has gone on record to explain the office's position on how virtual chat space identifiers are present and used in Bezos to establish communications between other user terminals. Applicant has not refuted the positions in the office action (some of which are reiterated below), but rather has simply stated that Bezos lacks virtual chat space identifiers.

*"Generally, Bezos teaches shopping (merchandise) related discussions (chat) conducted using hyperlinked (identifiers) text (symbols) among shoppers using a server (communication intermediating device) including tables based on Item/Participant/Discussion IDs (a correspondence table). [12/21/05 office action - para 10]*

*"...wherein based on the reported virtual-space identifiers the user terminals participate in the virtual spaces and initiate communication with other user terminals having the same symbols (FIGs. 12-13)." [12/21/05 office action - end of para 12].*

See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this

notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey D. Carlson whose telephone number is 571-272-6716. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8a-5:30p, (work from home on Thursdays).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571)272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeffrey D. Carlson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3622